The Significance of the College Placement Test

Time is Money for Financial Aid Recipients

As a financial aid recipient you have 12 semesters or 6 years at 2 semesters a year to remain eligible for financial aid.

If you complete an Associate’s Degree in 2 years, you have 4 years of financial aid to further your education.

If you complete an Associate’s Degree in 3 years, you have 3 years of financial aid left to further your education.

With the clock ticking on your financial aid eligibility, your goal is to become eligible for college-level courses as soon as possible. Using information about your current academic skills in reading, writing, and math, the College will enroll you in first semester courses that will provide the best opportunity for you to build your knowledge and successfully progress through the courses required for a degree or certificate.

If your placement test scores indicate you need to refresh or rebuild basic skills in order to become ready for college-level work, Zane State College has a developmental education program for you! When students review and prepare before taking a placement test and patiently give their best effort while taking the test, many have been able to accelerate their progress to college-level.

Preparing for the placement test can save you time and tuition money. For Example: The cost of one developmental course is

3 credit hours X $146.00 per credit hour = $438.00 + the cost of the textbooks
Placement Tests

Two standardized tests, ACT or Accuplacer, are the tools the College uses to place you in the appropriate beginning courses.

If you are a recent high school graduate and have taken the ACT, the following scores on the ACT will enable you to take college-level courses your first semester:

- English Composition 18
- Social Sciences/Reading 21
- Algebra/Mathematics 22

If you have not taken ACT, you will be asked to take Accuplacer, a computerized standardized test that will measure your reading, writing, and math skills.

Since your scores on these tests will determine whether you begin with developmental (basic skills) courses or college-level courses, you are strongly encouraged to prepare for the tests by doing some review, especially if you have been out of school for a while.

This web site will show you sample test items so that you can be familiar with the formats of the questions:


Websites for reviewing math and writing skills are available to you in My Z-Online. To locate them follow this path:

Student Resources → Academic Help → Websites for Math Help or Websites for English/Writing Help

If you do not have internet access at home, you are welcome to use the open computer labs on campus for your review.
Prefer to review on your mobile device? There is an App available.

The Official ACCUPLACER® Study App

$1.99
Cost of App

Includes interactive practice tests:

- Arithmetic
- Elementary Algebra
- College-Level Math
- Reading Comprehension
- Sentence Skills

Offered exclusively through Apple's iTunes Store. Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch and iPad.

www.collegeboard.org/accuplacer

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What review would be helpful?

*Accuplacer tests* the following skills:

**Reading Skills**

- Identifying main ideas
- Recognizing supporting ideas
- Making inferences
- Applying ideas

**Writing Skills**

- Recognizing complete sentences
- Using a variety of sentence patterns
- Recognizing clear and logical sentences

If you score well on the multiple choice questions covering these skills, you will be asked to do a writing sample. There is a choice of four topics to write about. To place in a college-level English course you must demonstrate that you can write an essay that includes:

- An introductory paragraph with a clear thesis (main idea) statement
- Three well-developed supporting paragraphs with sufficient evidence to support the thesis statement
- A concluding paragraph
- A variety of sentence patterns
- Accurate spelling, grammar, and punctuation
Arithmetic Skills - Without a calculator compute the following:

- Computations and estimations using whole numbers
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division of fractions
- Squares and square roots of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Computations using decimals
- Percent of a number
- Fraction, decimal, and percent equivalences
- A number when a percent of it is known
- Application problems including ratio, proportion, and percent

Elementary Algebra – Demonstrate competency in:

- Operations with signed numbers
- Determining Absolute Value
- Evaluating formulas and other algebraic expressions
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of monomials and polynomials
- Factoring
- Squaring a binomial
- Solving linear equations and inequalities
- Solving quadratic equations by factoring

Spend some time reviewing and then schedule an appointment in the Student Success Center for your placement test. No matter what the outcome of your tests, the College offers courses designed for your success. We simply want to accurately determine where you need to start.